

life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

Invitation to the Offering (*We are invited to return God's tithes and give our offering.*)

Offertory *Wonderous Love*

Robert A. Boyd

♦ **Response of Gratitude #223** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (vs. 4)

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

♦ **Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving**

Call to Prayer *To the Hills I Lift My Eyes*

Lee

Prayers of the People with The Lord's Prayer (pg. 35; *in the language and wording most familiar to you.*)

We Go Out In God's Name

*Having gathered together in God's name and been fed by God's Holy Word,
we go out in God's name bearing the peace of Christ to the world.*

Connecting with our Community

♦ **Hymn for Commitment #69** *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

♦ **Charge and Benediction**

♦ **Congregational Sung Benediction #547** *Go, My Children, With My Blessing* (vs. 1)

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

♦ **Postlude**

♦ Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.

Service Material References

Liturgy and Design © 2019 worshipdesignstudio.com

Call to Worship - Kwasi Kena, *The Africana Worship Book for Year C* (Discipleship Resources, 2008), 66.

Office: 302 West Church, Champaign, IL 61820 ♦ 217.356.7238

info@firstpres.church ♦ Rev. Beth Wagner (beth@firstpres.church) ♦ Rev. Joe Lundy (joseph@firstpres.church)

www.firstpres.church ♦ Facebook: fb.com/firstpreschampaign



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

March 30, 2025

4th Sunday in Lent

The First Dinner: Risking Rejection



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Bienvenue à La Première Eglise Presbytérienne de Champaign
Bienvenidos a La Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana

삼패인 제일 장로교회에 오신것을 환영합니다.

Si vous souhaitez que le service soit traduit en français,
procurez-vous un récepteur et des écouteurs à l'arrière du sanctuaire.

Welcome to worship!

When you enter the worship space, please be mindful of the silent prayers of those around you.

We are presently worshiping in Westminster Hall while our elevator is being replaced.

We invite you to share your contact info in the Friendship Pad when passed,
then to stay after the service for coffee and fellowship.

Mingle with other friends and guests and learn more about this congregation's ministry. **Welcome home!**

We Gather Together In God's Holy Name

God calls us together as "children." How wonderful it is to be so loved! Our natural response is worship.

Prelude & Chiming of the Hour on Tower Bell

Act of Friendship & Sharing of Prayer Concerns

Please pass the Friendship Pad, noting with whom you are sitting, and list prayer concerns on the prayer request cards in the pads.

Greetings & Welcome (♦Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.)

Threshold Moment

♦Call to Worship

Six days before the Passover, Martha served Jesus dinner at Lazarus' house. There, Mary took a pound of costly perfume and anointed Jesus' feet.

What's that in the air?

Mary poured her perfume on Jesus' feet and then wiped his feet with her hair.

She filled the air with the fragrance of her worship.

The prayers of the saints are like rising incense before God.

The fragrance of their worship fills the air.

Today, let us raise a praise that touches the heart of God.

Let the fragrance of our worship fill the air.

Let the fragrance of our worship fill the air!

God, we offer our praise as a sweet fragrance that aspires to heaven. May the fragrance of our worship fill the air!

♦Hymn of Praise #475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*


Call to Confession (*Congregation may be seated.*)

Prayer of Confession

It is so hard to not be afraid. Sometimes our fear makes us less compassionate, and more judgmental. We think we can ward off getting hurt by holding back, unwilling to risk putting ourselves out there for the sake of love.

Forgive us, O God. Encourage us to extravagant acts of love, especially when we are frightened. You entered our story through Jesus, now help us to enter fully into the story of your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen. *Silence is kept.*

Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us;

Christ, have mer - cy up - on us;

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

We Gather Around God's Holy Word

At the center of Christian life and worship is God's Word incarnate in Christ and God's Word as recorded in scripture. We hear the story of God's love in scripture and sacrament and we say, "Thanks be to God!"

I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory

To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love. (Repeat)

Word with Children *Mark 14:3-9*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture *Psalms 23*

Ceci est la Parole du Seigneur./**Gloire à Dieu** (pronounced "glow-ah ah dew")
This is the Word of the Lord./**Thanks be to God!**

Message *She Did What She Could: Telling the Uncomfortable Stories in Our Lives*

Beth Wagner

♦Hymn for Reflection #201 *A Prophet - Woman Broke a Jar*

We Respond to God's Word

As God invites us to be disciples of his Son, we prayerfully respond to God with affirmations of faith and acts of self-giving, commitment, and thanksgiving.

♦An Affirmation of Faith *PCUSA The Confession of 1967*

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His

This Week

Sunday, March 30

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:10 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rooms 204, 206, 207
- 10:10 AM Children's Sunday School/CE Building
- 10:10 AM Adult Discussion/Parlor

Monday, March 31

- 9:15 AM ELL In-Person Classes/CE Building & Café
- 12:00 noon Lunch & Learn/Centennial Hall
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 3:30 PM Transition Team/Library
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, April 1

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL In-Person Classes/CE Building & Café
- 9:15 AM Compassion, Peace, Justice/Zoom
- 10:30 AM Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Mentoring/Café
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Praise Dance/Chapel

Wednesday, April 2

- 9:15 AM ELL In-Person Classes/CE Building & Café
- 11:00 AM French Ministry Meeting/Family Library
- 1:00 PM Beth's Tea Time/Hopscotch Bakery in Champaign
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Parenting/Centennial Hall & CE Building
- 7:30 PM Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

Thursday, April 3

- 9:30 AM ELL Conversation/Café
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 2:30 PM Congregational Care Deacons/Parlor & Zoom
- 4:00 PM Spiritual Formation/Zoom
- 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

Friday, April 4 Church Office Closes at Noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 10:00 AM Christ Community Church Korean Choir/Chapel
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building

Saturday, April 5

- 10:00 AM DREAAM/CE Building
- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel

Announcements

●**We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, see **either pastor** after the service or contact the church office (info@firstpres.church). We are presently worshipping in Westminster Hall while the elevator to our historic Sanctuary is being replaced.

●Please wear your **nametag** to help our **staff** get acquainted.

●**Miriam Chenault** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.

●**Large print bulletins** are available for use on Sunday mornings. Ask an usher if you cannot find one.

●**Help us celebrate the glory of Easter!** Potted plants will enhance our worship service Easter morning. Plants are \$10 each and can be purchased in honor, memory or celebration of someone. Make your check to the church with "Easter" in the memo along with the name(s) of who they honor.

●We are collecting royalties each time we sing or hear a **Spiritual** in our service. Royalties were never paid for this music. Any money we collect will go to the DREAAM Choir. A donation box is on the Welcome Center.

●Join us immediately following worship for **Adult Discussion** in the Parlor. This morning **Ken Chapman** will continue our study of Parables with the Parable of the Talents.

●**Lunch and Learn** Mondays at noon in Centennial Hall. This week we will review *5 Wishes*, a booklet that helps navigate advance care planning. Give the gift of peace of mind with a comprehensive resource designed by the nation's experts in advance care planning. Bring a sack lunch.

●Join **Paster Beth** for "tea time" Wednesdays in April from 1-3 at Hopscotch Bakery and Market, 802 West John in Champaign.

●The **DREAAM middle school youth and staff** will again join us on our campus for fun activities, a Bible study, and to share a meal. We meet Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The dates are April 16 & 30, and May 14. For more information, contact **Peter Yau** pmyau@illinois.edu (217-621-0448) with questions or to sign up to help in the kitchen. Please contact **Holly Ewan Nordheden** hnordheden@gmail.com (217-621-3450). Put the dates on your calendar and sign-up NOW!

●If you or a loved one is **in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit**, contact the church office.

●Check out the **book cart** in Westminster Hall. Donate a book for others to enjoy and take some.

●The **March newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at firstpres.church/newsletter.

●Please **do not park** in the spaces marked Reserved 24/7 behind Meyer/Capel Law office on Sundays.

●**If unable to attend church**, watch our 9 AM service live each Sunday at firstpres.church/live. The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line anytime or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.

Maundy Thursday – Centennial Hall – April 17, 5 PM

We will hear the Word proclaimed, share a light supper and fellowship with Communion as Jesus did that Last Supper.

Good Friday – First United Methodist – April 18, 7 PM

Join us for a powerful Good Friday Service featuring Henrich Schutz's *Seven Last Words of Christ* – a 20 minute Baroque masterwork that brings Jesus' final words to life with profound emotion and depth.

Easter – April 20, 9 & 10:30 AM

We celebrate the risen Christ with Communion. At our 9 AM service, special music from our choir will be accompanied by a brass quartet.